



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No. 10/536,767

Q88071

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A sample drying device comprising:  
  
a channel for a sample flowing in said channel; and  
  
a sample drying area, disposed at an end of said channel and having an opening communicating with said channel,  
  
wherein said sample drying area comprises a fine channel narrower than said channel, and wherein said fine channel has a width such that liquid is drawn therethrough by capillary action.
  
2. (currently amended): A sample drying device comprising:  
  
a main channel for a sample flowing in said main channel;  
  
a plurality of side channels branched from said main channel; and  
  
a sample drying area, disposed at an end of said side channels and communicating with said side channels,  
  
wherein said sample drying area has a fine channel narrower than said side channels, and wherein said fine channel has a width such that liquid is drawn therethrough by capillary action.
  
3. (original): The sample drying device as claimed in Claim 2,

wherein said sample contains multiple components and said main channel comprises a separating portion to separate said components.

4. (original): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,  
wherein said sample drying area comprises a plurality of protrusions separated each other.

5. (original): The sample drying device as claimed in Claim 4,  
wherein said drying area has a shape so that the top of said sample drying area projects from said opening.

6. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,  
wherein said sample drying area is filled with multiple particles.

7. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,  
wherein said sample drying area is filled with a porous material.

8. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,  
wherein said sample drying area has a lid comprising a fine channel communicating with said outside of said sample drying device.

9. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said sample drying device comprises a temperature controller for controlling a temperature of said sample drying area.

10. (previously presented): A mass spectrometer comprising a sample drying area included in said sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, as a sample holder.

11. (previously presented): A mass spectrometry system comprising:  
separating unit separating components in a biological sample by their molecular sizes and properties;  
pretreatment unit pretreating said sample separated by said separating unit including enzymatic digestion;  
drying unit drying the pretreated sample components; and  
mass spectrometry unit conducting mass spectrometry for the dried sample,  
where in said drying unit comprises said sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3.